



# Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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DR. DAVID M. STOWE

## Board for World Ministries Meets in Wisconsin

The United Church Board for World Ministries meets for the 169th Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on November 12-15, 1978. Taking a purposeful look toward the world in which we live, the theme will be: "One World - One Family."

Dr. David M. Stowe, the Executive Vice-President, will address the Annual Meeting on this theme.

Participants from the Southeast Conference will be Mrs. Freda Brown of Central Church, Atlanta, Mr. Robert W. Ticknor of Circular Church, Charleston, and Mr. George Percival, formerly of Central Church and now a covenant member of the Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ — a new church being developed northeast of Atlanta.

Corporate members will be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit and to each other as they gather for review, renewal and rededication.

Sharing in the Annual Meeting will be missionaries, overseas visitors, theological students as well as the Corporate members.

We are asked to seek God's will for

## Luciani Chosen As Pope

"Habemus papam." With these words an expectant world was introduced on August 26th to Cardinal Albino Luciani who had just been selected as Pope of the Roman Catholic Church.

One of the first acts of the 65 year old pope, choosing the double name of John Paul, was immediately understood by all as a sign that he intends to continue the policies and styles of his predecessors.

Except for a term in the Italian Bishops' Conference, Pope John Paul has been engaged almost exclusively in pastoral activity, first as a priest, then as a bishop and finally as patriarch of Venice, Austria.

Described as an intellectual, Luciani was a frequent contributor to newspapers in the Venice area. As a Cardinal, he has commented on a variety of issues, ranging from the kidnapping of Aldo Moro to criticism of Italian communists.

In response, the United Church celebrates the election of Pope John Paul I, remembering the words of the Apostle Paul that "where one organ suffers, they all suffer together. If one flourishes, they all rejoice together."

## Growing Power Introduced

Help is here if your congregation is struggling with the issue of church growth. What is church growth? What makes churches grow? What is your church's growing power? These questions and more are addressed by a new resource for local churches called: **Growing Power**. It is published by the Evangelism Office of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

This resource is a thirty-three (33) color-slide set with guide, script and discussion questions. Bible study passages are provided for each slide. Local

World Ministries, to pray for the officers of the Board and those who serve on our behalf overseas and at home and to pray for new visions of our World Ministry.



DR. S. L. JOHNSON

## Dr. S. L. Johnson Dies

On September 11, 1978 Dr. S. Larry Johnson, 1430 John Wesley Circle, Birmingham, Al. 35210, died quietly in his sleep. He is survived by his wife, Alice, three children and several grandchildren.

A Memorial Service was held at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham on September 17, where Dr. Johnson had been pastor emeritus since November 30, 1976.

He had served as pastor of Pilgrim Church from October 1, 1965 until August 1, 1974.

One of the highlights of his ministry at Pilgrim Church was the mortgage-burning on Sunday, June 3, 1973. Serving as pastor, the task of reconciliation and of church development faced him daily. The Church had faced the issue of segregation and integration with a great debt arising from the building of the present facilities. The "church with the blue roof" found new life under the leadership of Larry Johnson.

When he retired from the active ministry on August 1, 1974, he "completed forty years as a parish priest."

churches can prepare their own church-growth presentation using slides of their parish life interspersed with the slides from this new resource. It may be ordered from: Evangelism Office, Room 909, UCBHM 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010. Price: \$7.50 each.

# Pioneer Nurse Celebrates 90th Birthday

May 22 was a special day at Wharton Nursing Home, Pleasant Hill, TN for Alice Adshead who turned 90 years of age. A tireless co-worker of Dr. May Wharton, for whom the nursing home is named, "Adzie," as Alice Adshead is affectionately known, was the recipient of a gala birthday party in her honor. Former students and other friends of long standing were present to share their tribute and praise.

Born in England, Alice Adshead took her nurse's training in Toronto, Canada, then worked in North Carolina as an industrial nurse. There Dr. Wharton, who for many years was the only doctor in the Crossville area, challenged Alice Adshead to come to Pleasant Hill, describing frankly the difficult job but also sharing her ideas of ministering to the great needs. After pondering the challenge for some time, Miss Adshead decided to accept Dr. May's offer, hoping to help her carry out her dream for the people on "the mountain." She came to Pleasant Hill on November 1, 1921.

She taught nursing classes in the Pleasant Hill Academy and in several of the surrounding communities, assisted Dr. Wharton in the hospital, and later became her private nurse and traveling companion. With her great love of flowers, she helped to beautify the grounds around the hospital. She continues to enjoy certain spots on the campus which she helped to plant.

At the time of Uplands' Fiftieth Anniversary in 1971, the Alice Adshead Endowment Fund was established. From near and far, now-graying "babies" whom she had helped into the world came to do her honor and to be the first contributors to the fund which bears her name. The income from this fund is available to assist residents of Wharton Nursing Home whose resources are insufficient to meet all their needs. The fund's principal is now nearly \$57,000; its goal is \$250,000.

Alice Adshead's spirit of concern for others, so abundantly demonstrated in her long life of unselfish service, her faith in God and in her fellow human beings, continue to inspire those who meet her each day. She will always be a special person in the Uplands community.

— from Uplands Update, Summer 1978

# HOUSE FOR HANDICAPPED PURCHASED

Has your church studied the General Synod priority concerning "handicapped persons" and wondered what you could do to help handicapped persons in your community?

Pilgrim Congregational UCC in Birmingham has likewise been concerned and has responded in a unique and tangible way. The church has purchased a house which will be remodeled to meet the needs of handicapped persons to whom it will eventually be rented for living accommodations.

Located on 35th Avenue in Birmingham, the two bedroom house will probably be able to accommodate two to three persons. Purchased on August 21, the \$8,000 down payment was enthusiastically raised in donations and pledges from the congregation on the following weekend. The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries has made a gift of \$5,000 to be used in the renovation.

The result of almost two years of dedicated planning by a committee within the church chaired by Evelyn Owens, the project now enters the second stage: the actual work of carrying through with the renovation and making it all work.

# "HOW-TO" RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

A new EVCOM (Evangelism/Communication) "How-To" on Membership Recruitment is now available. The Rev. J. Alan McLean, former Evangelism Secretary for the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, has written a booklet for use by pastors and lay persons in strengthening member outreach. This resource tackles the "numbers" question head-on, with reflections on the biblical and theological meaning of growth. A model for parish visitation is offered, designed to lead outward toward contact with the unchurched. Entitled **Membership Ministry**, this EVCOM resource seeks to help congregations to deal with growth questions and with growth techniques. The resource stresses the creative tension

# Movements of the Spirit

Rev. John Jackey, pastor of Knoxville Church of the Savior, UCC, writes: "One of my responsibilities is to keep my ear to the ground to listen out for new movements of the Spirit. Within recent months there has been such a movement in our nation which excites me. It's being called 'contemporary spirituality.' The United Church of Christ, and other denominations, are currently putting out rich materials in response to this movement.

"This is a time, surprisingly, of vigorous spirituality both within and outside the churches. We see it in far ranging forms: yoga, transcendental meditation, charismatic expression, Oriental spirituality, meditation, journal writing, etc. The problem and the joy is that spirituality, to say the very least, is focused on the reality of God. It has to do with discerning and responding to the movement of the Spirit. As someone put it, Christian spirituality is the 'response of the whole person to the action of the Holy Spirit within us.' And yet, even within the Christian churches, forms of spirituality among those in the Christian churches is so varied that Christians often fail to see the spirituality of their fellows. What looks like spirituality to one does not look like spirituality to others.

"This is a good time, then, to take a fresh look at our spirituality. This emphasis excites me, which may surprise some of those who know of my concern for social justice. But spirituality is the real business of the church. Not social justice, not social action, not moral and ethical issues, not character development, not Christian education, not Biblical knowledge, but spirituality is the prime business of the church. Spirituality ought to be the ground from which all of these spring, and something is wrong with a spirituality from which these things don't spring. But if these things are not grounded in a healthy spirituality, they wither into empty formalities.

— September Newsletter

necessary between both qualitative and quantitative growth. Specific visitation approaches are outlined for setting recruitment goals and developing prospect lists.

**Membership Ministry** is available from the Evangelism Office, UCBHM, 287 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010. Price: 50c each, 45c each in orders of 10 or more.

## Ala-Tenn "Pop-In" Planned

The youth of the Alabama-Tennessee Association will "Pop-In" on Knoxville Church of the Savior on the weekend of November 10-11, Friday through Sunday.

One of three Association-wide youth activities planned for this program year, the "Pop-In" is an informal weekend featuring fun and fellowship, as well as introducing youth to the churches that compose the Ala-Tenn. Association.

Sleeping arrangements are in the church through whom meals are also provided.

Detailed information will be forthcoming soon.

## Mr. & Mrs. Normal & Normal Kids

You'll see them in magazines and newspapers: in the front pew of a nice clean church sit a shining family.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Normal and their two normal children. They are nicely dressed. They look devout. They are singing a hymn. Mr. and Mrs. Normal fell in love at the proper time, had their children at correct intervals, and have no serious problems in their married life. They have no financial problems, have no problems making the right kind of friends, and are perfectly adjusted to the society of normal people. So there they are at play or at worship without a worry in the world. And, thinks the person in the street, it is just such people that compose the church of Jesus Christ.

This is part of the mythology of suburban America. First, that there is such a family and second, that the church is around to bless Mr. and Mrs. Normal and to inspire the rest of us to reach this goal. I believe that this myth is responsible for a lot of unhappiness as real flesh-and-blood human beings measure themselves up against the Normal family and conclude that they are abnormal. How much better if we just kicked Mr. and Mrs. Normal back into limbo where they belong and frankly faced the fact that we are all just struggling, hopeful, half-fulfilled, half-frustrated, plus and minus men, women, boys and girls, each with our quirks and oddities, and our own unique mixture of rough and tumble human experience.

— Rev. George Bennett,  
Button Gwinnett United Church of Christ

## Ala-Tenn Association adopts Goals

Some 75 people journeyed to First Evangelical and Reformed Church, UCC in Nashville, TN for the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Tennessee Association.

In addition to regular business, the meeting's theme — "New Visions of the Gospel" — was reflected in a number of impressive presentations and addresses. Rev. Peggy Way, Professor of Pastoral Care and Theology at Vanderbilt Divinity School, gave an inspiring report of her journey to India this past summer as a representative of the World Council of Churches. Dr. Walter Leonard, President of Fisk University, shared the history of the AMA colleges and their roots in our present day culture in the Annual Meetings's Keynote address. Rev. Walstein Snyder, Director of Elon Home for Children and Rev. Edward Dahmer, Director of Uplands Retirement Center, shared a personal glimpse into the life and ministry of their respective health and welfare institutions.

But the heart of the Annual Meeting was concerned with the study and adoption of a set of goals designed to structure the work of the Association for the next ten years.

Following small group study and revision of the wording of some of the goals on Friday evening, delegates adopted for implementation the following goals:

1. That the Ala-Tenn Association initiate investigation for new church starts within its area.

2. That the churches composing the Ala-Tenn Association seek to increase membership by 1988 by a minimum of 150% and that they conduct a one year self-study of the inner-relationship of numerical growth, the spreading of the Good News and the meaning of being a "Church."

3. That the Ala-Tenn Association seek by 1988 to employ a full-time Association Minister.

4. In the next 10 years, encourage Association churches to increase their financial and programatic support of Uplands and the Morgan-Scott Project.

5. Encourage each Association church by 1983 and at least by 1988, to invest one full year in a disciplined self study of stewardship, a study to be conducted by the Association in 1980.

6. That every Association church strive, by 1988, to contribute a minimum of 25% of

[Continued on Page 5]

## Local Gardens Produce Dollars

Pleasant Hill, TN, has many dedicated gardeners, including several members of Uplands Retirement Community. Uplands, Inc. and a generous neighbor have provided plots for their use each summer. Often they produce more than they can use — too many squash one season and an over-supply of green beans the next. Instead of having them given away in a haphazard manner to friends, a member of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, who had known of a similar situation elsewhere, came up with a suggestion that was adopted with enthusiasm.

Every Saturday morning, those with fresh vegetables to share were to bring them to the Community House where others would take what they could use and, in turn, make a donation for hungry people elsewhere. Those who are not gardeners, because they feel they do not have the blessing of a green thumb or lack time or physical strength, were delighted to show up with their baskets and bags. During the summer the little money box sitting among the boxes of cucumbers and tomatoes received their attention, too.

When the project ended on September 9, everyone was delighted to learn that the contributions totaled: \$535.00. This money will go through the denominational office to the World Hunger Fund in which the United Church of Christ participates. The people of Pleasant Hill were genuinely happy over this effort and recommend that other localities should try it.

— Betty Anderson

## FAMILIES: "That's Our Business"

Staffed by Director Robert L. Stogner, MSW, the division of Family and Community Services offers a wide range of services not only within Elon Home, but to local churches as well. Now Family and Community Services would like to expand its field of service to include the churches of the Southeast Conference!

What does Family and Community Services have to offer? Answer: a variety of programs and skills that can be shaped and suited to your congregation's particular needs. Some examples: "Chips and Blocks" (exploring parent-child relationships); "Adult Growth and Personal Effectiveness for Married Couples;" "Problem Solving in the Family," "How Do You Feel About Feelings" (examining the importance of feelings in family life) and many, many more.

Interested? Write: Robert L. Stogner, Elon Home for Children, Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.



# NEWS & NOTES

"Heritage Village," containing a number of new housing units being built at Uplands Retirement Center in Pleasant Hill, TN, is progressing well after a slow beginning due to a very wet spring. The building containing eight efficiency

apartments is due to be completed in September. The duplex apartment buildings should be finished by the first of the year. It is anticipated that all units will be immediately occupied.

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## IS YOUR CHURCH A PEOPLE ATTRACTOR?

What attracts people to a church? Convenient location? Yes. A good speaker? Yes. Inspiring music? Yes. An attractive building? Yes.

But a key element in attracting visitors, newcomers, and prospective members is friendliness. Where there is a warm, dynamic congregation having an enthusiasm that is contagious, visitors usually come in large numbers.

A church can buy many advantages with money. These include a well-located and comfortable building, trained leadership, top quality advertising, and an abundance of recreational, educational and social activities. But good old-fashioned friendliness, the kind the world sorely needs, is not for sale. It comes only from the hearts of dedicated people who love God and enjoy helping others to feel at home in their church.

Here are five steps to a friendlier church:

1. Speak to the other person first. Don't wait for him or her to take the initiative.
2. If there is someone you don't know, introduce yourself to him or her.
3. Be pleasant in your words and expressions. A great church cannot be built with frowns.
4. Remember Will Rogers testimony: "I never met a person I didn't like."
5. Memorize and practice the wisdom found in Proverbs 18:24: "A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."

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# "Pew" Problems

It seems that one is never without problems — even in the church. In recent years, St. Mark's has encountered a serious problem with the pews. We bring it to your attention now, as the problem is quite likely to be aggravated during the summer months.

The problem centers on the fact that the pews appear to be drying out. With the subsequent loss of moisture, and therefore loss of weight, church officials are worried that the pews may eventually pull free from the screw nails that hold them in place and float free.

You will appreciate the difficulties this could create, should the problem actually arise. The building is not without drafts, and should the pews be blown about, they could wreak havoc with our beautiful sanctuary. More serious, of course, are the problems it could create on Sundays. We certainly wouldn't want our minister struck down by an empty pew, or have some parishioner sue St. Mark's as a result of being crushed against the wall by a free-floating pew.

As a result of these possibilities, a committee has been studying the problem. After much research, it has concluded that there is really only one solution to our problem. By filling the pews at least once a week with warm, moist objects, our problem can be eliminated. Not only will the weight assure that the pews stay in place, but they will soon regain the moisture they have lost, together with their former beauty and youthfulness.

As you can see, this is a problem that each member can help to resolve. The ideal response to this threat would be for you to bring with you on Sunday a medium-density moist object in the form of a friend. Your help would be appreciated particularly during the summer months when our problem could become acute.

— From "The Touch,"

St. Mark's Church, Don Mills, Ont.

## ALA-TENN [From Page 3]

its local budget to OCWM.

7. That we seek — as an Association and as individual churches — ever new ways to increase the identity of the UNITED Church of Christ.

8. That we continue and seek to improve our present Association-wide programs for youth.

9. That the Association seek to enable its churches to grow in faith and increase the vitality of their programming and outreach to the community.

10. That the Association make a special effort to support and enable the ministry of historically rooted black congregations in their ministry to their members and our community.



FIRST EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH,  
UCC, Nashville, TN

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### First Evangelical & Reformed, Nashville, Tenn.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Kentucky, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing the E&R side of the United Church family is First Evangelical & Reformed Church, UCC in Nashville, Tennessee. The largest of the three United Churches in Nashville, First E&R is a good example of the ethnic and linguistic diversity and heritage of the United Church of Christ.

The church found its start in 1891 and was founded primarily by Swiss immigrants, many of whose descendants are still active members. Until 1901, all classes and services were conducted in German. German Bibles and hymnals, and a variety of historical records and documents can presently be seen on display in the church narthex.

Known as First Reformed Church at that time, the congregation moved into its first building in north Nashville in 1893. Due to increasing membership, which equalled nearly 200 members in 1932, a church school wing was added in that year. In 1934 the church's name changed to First Evangelical & Reformed, reflecting the merger in that year of its own Reformed Church of the US and the Evangelical Synod of America.

Due to decreasing membership, the

church relocated in 1952 to south Nashville holding services in what is now the parsonage. In 1955 the present sanctuary was constructed and in 1969, due to increased membership, the present educational building was completed.

With the present membership again nearing 200, First E&R, in addition to traditional ministries of worship and education, is involved in considerable ministry to its community, including prison work, service to the elderly, work in alcoholic rehabilitation and "partnership" with the Morgan-Scott Project.



Youth Group, First E&R

## Start of New Life

Aug. 31, Uskudar, Turkey

"This letter is only a prelude, as I have not really gotten involved in the life of the school yet. I am going full time to language school, which means 15 hours a week of language study and about 8 hours of travel back and forth to the school. Then I rush home to man the fort here. I have so much to learn and certainly need and appreciate the support that you good people have already begun to give. Not only do I have the concern of so many in America, but I have a wonderful staff here. There is a good spirit among the teachers. Many of them are graduates of the school and feel a great devotion to the school. The Turkish vice principal is one of these. Esin Hoyi was an Uskudar graduate and an American Field Service student in America. She attended Virginia Polytechnical Institute. She embodies the best of our two worlds, as does the school.

I wish all of you were here to experience the beauty of this place. Every morning I take either a ferry, or, missing that, a little launch, over to the European side of Istanbul for language lessons. Usually the day is not clear and through the haze I see the minarets of the Blue Mosque and Saint Sophia or the Topkapi Palace. Even on our own side there is a lovely little jewel of a mosque that greets me on my return. Everywhere there is the grace and color of this land, whether in a lovely tile or small purple eggplants arranged in a circle, or the call of the Muessin from his minaret. My own little 'Kinney Cottage' offers as much charm to me, and soon I will be happily ensconced in it. My furniture has arrived and is waiting for its owner to have time to arrange it. "Has geldiniz or, welcome to it!"

Thank you for your concern. To all the congregation, my thanks for your good wishes."

Affectionately,  
Faye Edwards

Don't forget, Miss Edwards would like to hear from you.

Miss Faye Edwards, Principal  
Uskudar Amerikan Kis Lisesi  
Uskudar, Istanbul, Turkey

Missionary related to Pilgrim Church in Birmingham, Alabama.



## The Fight for Food

"The Fight for Food," a series of three programs on global hunger, will be available on public television the week of November 12th. The series, produced by WQED, Pittsburgh, promises nationwide coverage of this most important issue.

You are urged, first, to contact the general manager of your local public television station and request that the series be scheduled for local viewing. While "The Fight for Food" is made available through the Public Television Network, the decision to show it is made locally.

Second, you are encouraged to form a viewing group among the members of your church to see and to discuss the programs and their implications. Each congregation of the United Church of Christ has received a copy of a special discussion guide prepared by Bread for the World and

"Global Paper: The Fight for Food" looks at the long-range problems in Senegal, primarily the western edge of the Sahel, caused by drought and hunger. However, as pictured, there is an abundance of fishing catches on the beaches, which may not get to the hungry natives.

cooperating denominations, including our own, and information on how to obtain additional copies for local use.

Members of the United Church of Christ contribute to ministries which alleviate hunger whenever they give to Our Christian World Mission. Local congregations, however, are asked to make a special emphasis on hunger each year during October and November, and to make special contributions to the UCC Hunger Action Fund.

A month-long series of activities for the congregation has been suggested in a Hunger Action Guide which each local church received in the Stewardship Council KeyPak: July-December, 1978. Viewing the television series, "The Fight for Food," can be made an integral part of your congregation's activities.